UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA CASE NO 00-100026-CR-KING

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
vs.)
RICARDO INVESTMENTS,)
Defendant.)
	/

PLEA AGREEMENT

The United States of America and RICARDO INVESTMENTS (hereinafter Defendant) enter the following plea agreement, pursuant to Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure 11(e)(1)(B):

- 1. Defendant agrees to plead guilty to a one-count Information, charging the defendant with operating a commercial dive boat in a grossly negligent manner under Title 46, United States Code, Section 2302(b).
- 2. The Defendant and the United States of America agree to waive the Pre-Sentence Investigation and proceed directly to sentencing.
- 3. Defendant understands and agrees that the penalty for the crime to which it is pleading is a maximum term of five years probation and a statutory fine of not more than \$200,000.00, as well as restitution.
- 4. The Defendant further understands and acknowledges that, in addition to any sentence imposed under paragraph 3 of this agreement, a special assessment in the amount of \$125.00 for Count I will be imposed on the Defendant. The Defendant agrees that any special assessment imposed shall be paid at the time of sentence.

- 5. Defendant agrees that Shirlee Thaler, an officer of Defendant Corporation will appear on its behalf and has the authority to enter into a guilty plea and to accept imposition of the sentence.
- 6. As to the offense charged in the Information, the United States of America and the Defendant agree to recommend to the Court that the Defendant be sentenced as follows:
 - A. To pay a fine in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00);
- B. To establish and maintain an effective compliance program regarding the operation of a safe diving facility and operation, said program to be submitted to the United States Coast Guard for approval by April 1, 2000. The Defendant will consult with an outside, independent diving organization in developing this program. This program will include the use of CBID boards, which Defendant agrees to purchase and use in its diving operation and on its diving boats. Defendant agrees to make the final approved diving program available to other diving companies for use. Defendant agrees to be inspected periodically by the United States Coast Guard on its compliance program.
- C. To perform community service by organizing and sponsoring, with approval and supervision by the United States Coast Guard, a comprehensive seminar on safe diving operations, including procedures and equipment. Said seminar will be conducted before June 1, 2001 at a time and place agreed upon by the United States Coast Guard and Defendant. The program shall be coordinated with the Keys Association of Dive Operators (KADO) and may be held in conjunction with a KADO meeting. Defendant agrees to contact and arrange guest speakers on safe diving operations. Defendant will budget five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) towards the expenses of this program. Any monies not used on this program will be donated to

Sanctuary Friends of the Florida Keys, a 301(c) organization that benefits the sanctuary and diving interests in the Florida Keys.

- D. To serve a two-year term of probation, including supervision by the United States Coast Guard..
- 7. This is the entire agreement and understanding between the United States and Defendant. There are no other agreements or understandings between the parties expressed or implied.

Date: 3/6/01

GUY A. LEWIS UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

TERESA J. DAVENPORT ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY

Date: 3/6/0/

COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT